1. The 15th EPS estimates correspond to unrestricted conditions and are based on actual data upto the year 1992-93 (Base Year) after making due allowance for energy cuts, where as the actual figures are actual met under restricted conditions.
2. Demand out stripping the availability and consequently cuts imposed on the use of power by various utilities.
3. Recession in the economy resulting in slow industrial growth.

Better Management of Power Sector

2235. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of power has been given so far to private sector at any place in India;

(b) if so, what is the experience of Government and the parties involved and the problems faced by both; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the bottleneck in the power distribution for a better management of power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Private companies have been distributing power in some cities like Bombay Suburban Electricity Supply Ltd. in Mumbai, Calcutta Electricity Supply Company Limited in Calcutta and Ahmedabad Electricity Company Limited in Ahmedabad for a long time. The performance of these companies has been satisfactory.

Recently in 1999, Orissa has privatised distribution by divesting 51% share holding of four distribution companies created as a part of their reform programme. While it is too early to assess the performance of private distribution companies in Orissa, it is expected that quality of service to the consumers would improve and these companies would be able to bring commercial viability to the power supply industry in Orissa by being effective in reducing power pilferage and technical losses.

(c) In order to make the power sector commercially viable, a Conference of Power Ministers was held on 26.2.2000 wherein it was resolved, *inter alia,* to adopt the following measures for better managment of power sector.

- energy audit at all levels.
- time bound program of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

- reduction and finally, elemination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on a priority basis.

If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/ cooperatization/privatization of the distribution would have to be undertaken.

Establishment of 100 MW Power Project at Amguri

2236. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to establish a power project of 100 MW at Amguri based on supply of natural gas by the Petroleum Ministry; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure gas supply from Petroleum Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have offered to allocate 0.50 MCMD of gas to Amguri Power Project of Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) from the overall existing allocation of gas to their various power plants. However, Assam Government have expressed its inability to accept the offer of re-allocation of gas from existing allocation to ASEB.

Pending Proposals of Power Projects in Assam

2237. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister o*f* POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending with Government for sanction and clearance for setting up of power projects in the state of Assam;

(b) at what stages those projects have been pending, project-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As on 29.2.2000, one power project in Assam, RCE for Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani) HEP (2x50 MW) with an estimated cost of Rs. 251.69 crore, was under examination in the Central Electricity Authority for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC).

The project was earlier to be implemented in the private sector. A fresh DPR for implementation of the project in State sector has been received from the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) in December, 1999. The essential